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On November 8, a Wenzhou, Zhejiang court sentenced to death a private entrepreneur convicted of killing a tax collector during an October 29 fistfight that followed a dispute over tax assessments.

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Moreover, since June numerous executions have taken place nationwide for crimes unrelated to the unrest. Between August 15 and late October, one press service documented at least 74 executions reported in national Chinese media; this total did not include unreported executions or those reported only in provincial or local newspapers.

The Wenzhou and Guangzhou cases demonstrate the highly variable speed with which justice is administered in China. The Wenzhou entrepreneur was caught, tried, and convicted, his (automatic) appeal rejected, and the execution carried out within less than two weeks. By contrast, in the Guangzhou case a year elapsed between arrest and conviction, and the appeal process alone took more than four months.

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